

Appl. No. 09/990,753  
Customer No. 000069032

### REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 18-24, 27-32, and 36-44 were pending, with claims 8-10, 13, 18, 28, 39, and 40 objected to and the remainder rejected. Claims 1, 9, 11-15, 24, 32, 35, 40, and 41 are amended herein, and claims 7, 8, 18, 28, and 39 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 9-15, 19-24, 27, 29-32, 36-38 and 40-44 remain active in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the claim amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 8-10, 13, 18, 28, 39, and 40 were objected to as dependent upon rejected base claims, but were otherwise allowable. The subject matter of claims 7 and 8 has been added to base claim 1, such that base claim 1 now represents claim 8 rewritten in independent form. The subject matter of claim 18 has been added to base claim 15, such that base claim 15 now represents claim 18 rewritten in independent form. The subject matter of claim 28 has been added to base claim 24, such that base claim 24 now represents claim 28 rewritten in independent form. The subject matter of claim 39 has been added to base claim 35, such that base claim 35 now represents claim 39 rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 7, 8, 18, 28, and 39 have been canceled.

Claim 40 has been rewritten in independent form. Various other claims have been amended to correct dependencies upon non-canceled claims. All claims except for claim 32 now depend from a claim that is allowable or are allowable.

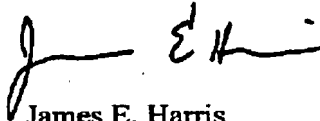
Claim 32 has been amended to add the same limitations from claim 28 that was added to claim 24 to place that claim in allowable form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 32 is allowable at least for the same reasons as claim 24.

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### Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-6, 9-15, 19-24, 27, 29-32, 36-38 and 40-44 as presently constituted. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 512.275.6652 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Harris  
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8/15/07

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